

VIEWS FROM THE PARISH

The Ruspidge & Soudley

Parish Newsletter

June 2021



Comment

Covid. Hopefully, this will be the last time the newsletter starts with Covid! Most people in the higher risk category have been vaccinated twice and the local NHS is making good progress on the rest, many of whom have had the first dose. By the time of the next issue (1st July) we will be just a few weeks away from a total lifting of restrictions. We hope!

Speeding. Drivers Speeding through our Parish continue to be a menace. In this issue we publish the Traffic Report for the Winter and early Spring just. The report is produced from recordings made by our three Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), As you can see, speeds remain high, especially increased in Soudley, as is the volume of traffic due to the Blakeney road closure. It is usually the lowest - now the highest!

The highest speed recorded was once again on Buckshaft Road - 80mph, recorded at 15 mins past midnight, on 11th February. If it was you, you qualify for the dubious honour of being the **Most Dangerous Idiot** of the year!

See also below - increased Traffic in **Soudley**.

Wild Boar. As the Editor, I was recently received a 'readers letter', asking me to spread the word about the dangers posed by wild boar. She recounts an incident whilst walking her dog in the Forest. Her dog was on an extending lead when, in an enclosed pathway, it pounced on a large boar, hidden in the ferns. The boar retaliated by attacking the dog and chasing it. The dog hid behind its owner as the boar continued its attack. The owner was hit on the leg as the boar pursued the dog. A 'well aimed kick and a loud yell persuaded the boar to cease, and it disappeared into the undergrowth.

This is a common tale but one worth repeating. Boar are large animals and capable of doing a great deal of damage. They particularly hate dogs (perhaps through the ages recognising them as wolves, their only predator?) and will attack, and kill a dog if roused, particularly if accompanied with their young. This action is perfectly natural and should be expected. There are no verified accounts of boar attacking humans but incidents such as this are recorded.

The Forest is a wild place, full of wild creatures, and we are all the more richer for it. Folk should remember that when we walk through the Forest, we 'invade' their territory - sometimes with our domesticated creatures. They (dogs) must be kept on a tight lead, particularly in tight spaces. To do otherwise is to risk losing your dog and even being injured yourself.

This reminder is especially timely now. During lockdown there has been an explosion of puppy sales and the number of dogs in general - often owned by folk who have no knowledge of the Forest or dogs.

Finally, a word to dog owners in general - it may surprise you that not everybody loves dogs! Dogs which habitually jump up on strangers whilst they visit the forest are a real nuisance. I recall being molested by a huge Great Dane. It bounded towards me and ended up with its front paws on my shoulders and its head level with mine - just inches away. After its owner covered the 100 yards or so to me, he called it off, and laughed whilst announcing that "he's only playing". I did not find it at all funny, nor did I appreciate the mud on my coat! A lot of old and frail people walk in the Forest. Such a shock could cause real harm!

To all folk who walk their dogs in the Forest - please, **KEEP IT ON A LEAD and UNDER Control!**

Whilst on the subject of the Wild Boar, another reminder - please, **DON'T FEED THEM!!**

Ed

Play Areas

The work of refurbishing our play areas is now complete bar a little touching up of newly tarmacked entrances.

New Councillor

Since the last issue of Viewpoint we have added another Councillor. We have been joined by Mark Ogden, who lives in Soudley. Welcome Mark!

Please consider joining your Parish Council. Two vacancies remain to achieve a full council. There is no deadline for applications. Council is happy to receive applications until all seats are taken.

Your Council Needs YOU!

Old St White's School Buildings

We have been asked by members of the public why work is carrying on at the former school, despite the fact that one of the planning conditions imposed by FODDC was that no work should commence on site until the junction was improved.

The Parish Council notified planning immediately asking that they should serve an enforcement notice on the developer insisting that the junction improvement should be done first.

Planning's response was that it was a small local builder plus although it was a planning breach it was only minor. A District Councillor became involved on our behalf resulting in more feeble excuses from planning. A member of the public sent an excellent letter to the Forester about the case and work on site stopped soon after.

A month or so later, work recommenced. More letters from Parish and District Councillors. More excuses from planning one of which said the ongoing work was non disruptive. Well the only disruptive work to be done as far as the wider public is concerned is the junction improvement work itself.

We as a Parish are powerless to stop this abuse of regulations but we are not about to give up yet so watch this space.

One can only speculate why an authority who imposed the rule is doing so much to avoid enforcing its rule. You can make your own minds up on that one and perhaps tell us what you think?

Traffic problems in Soudley

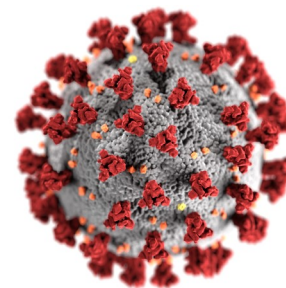
Those living outside and travelling through Soudley will note a huge increase in the amount of traffic passing through the village - those living in Soudley are well aware! This is, of course, caused by the Blakeney Road closure - expected to be in place for another 12 months and possibly longer.

One of our new Councillors, Jo Smith has taken up the baton for Soudley and she will be contacting the relevant authorities with a view to easing the situation and slowing speed.

Speeding continues to be a problem in our Parish as in so many others. Unfortunately, there is insufficient enforcement of the law and as long as that remains the case, dangerous driving will persist.



COVID-19 - Latest Forest News/Information



FOREST GP SURGERIES

Update for those aged 50 Years and Over. Posted 17.05.21

The NHS will today start contacting those aged 43 and 42 years of age inviting them to book their Covid Vaccination at the Mass Vaccination Sites (not at Cinderford). Those in this cohort may receive a text and can use the link, use nhs.uk or call 119 to book. Please remember to book both appointments for your first and second jabs.

Letters are going out this week from the NHS to all those eligible (including the 44 year olds invited yesterday).

This situation is moving at pace and we will update you on this page with information as we receive it.

There will be a decision later this week by the NHS regarding expanding the invites to 41 and 40 year olds.

To see the latest, the website is www.forestgpsurgeries.co.uk

...<...>...

Litter. A lot of folk continue to carry out Litter Picking in both Ruspidge and Soudley. They do so in their spare time and for no reward. Our open spaces are all the better for their efforts. Well done and Thank You!

...<...>...

Flytipping. The illegal dumping of rubbish is both unsightly and dangerous - particularly to our children. Once again we see that one of the consequences of the lockdowns has been an increase in this practice. If you see evidence of this, please report it to FOD District Council or, if it's in the Forest, to the Forestry Commission. Contact numbers for both are within the last page of this newsletter.

...<...>...

The Levelling Up Fund bid Forest of Dean District Council have chosen the projects to be included in their bid for The Levelling Up Fund Government grant.

The bid, to be submitted on 18th June, will be for the full £20 million maximum allowed. It will include a new University Innovation, Careers and Enterprise Learning Centre at Hartpury alongside redevelopment of the Five Acres site as a leisure destination with a centre for sporting excellence that would also include a satellite site for Hartpury University and Hartpury College. The third part of the bid is for regeneration in Cinderford Town Centre, including proposals for bringing vacant buildings back into use.

The Forest of Dean District is a Level one priority area for the fund, being one of 123 Local Authorities prioritised. The funding is for local projects covering either transport, regeneration, or culture.

The bid has been supported by the Forest of Dean's local MP, Rt Hon Mark Harper MP. Backing by the local MP is one of the criteria for funding.

A new project team is currently bringing together the three different organisations involved to get it ready for the submission date of 18 June.

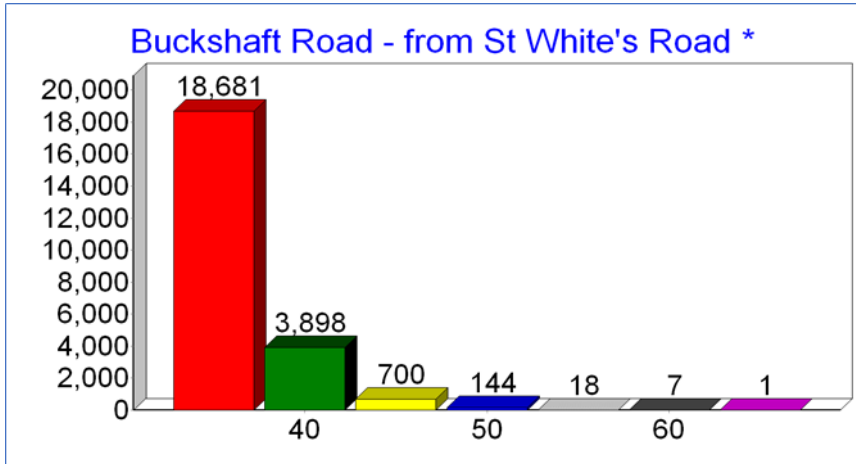
Three major projects which were unsuccessful in being included in the bid are Pine End Works Redevelopment, Lydney Harbour Marina and Forest Greenways cycle path. Over 16 expressions of interest were received. Forest of Dean District Council have said "All the projects not included in the proposal, or not eligible for this funding, will form a new Capital Project Portfolio to build a short-, medium- and longer-term picture of where funding is needed for projects across the district. Forest of Dean District Council will use this list as future funding opportunities arise, to help signpost applicants to new funding sources and to support project applicants to develop their project ideas."

Nicky Packer. District Councillor

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

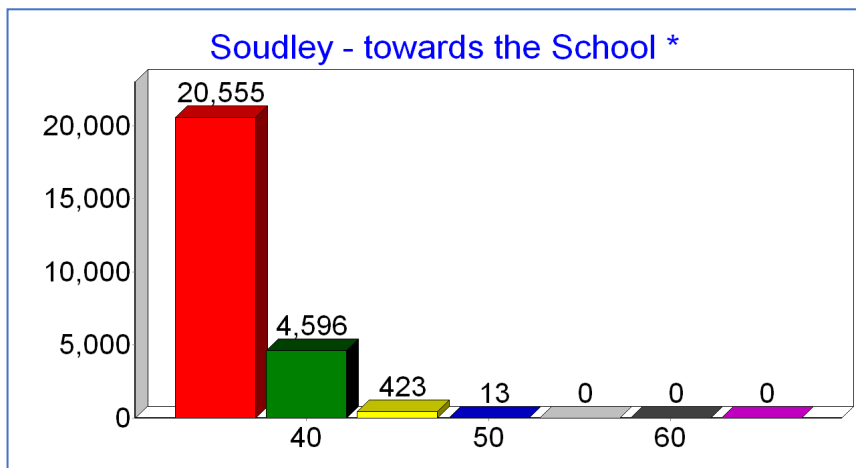
SpeedWatch

VAS data report for the period November 2020 to May 2021

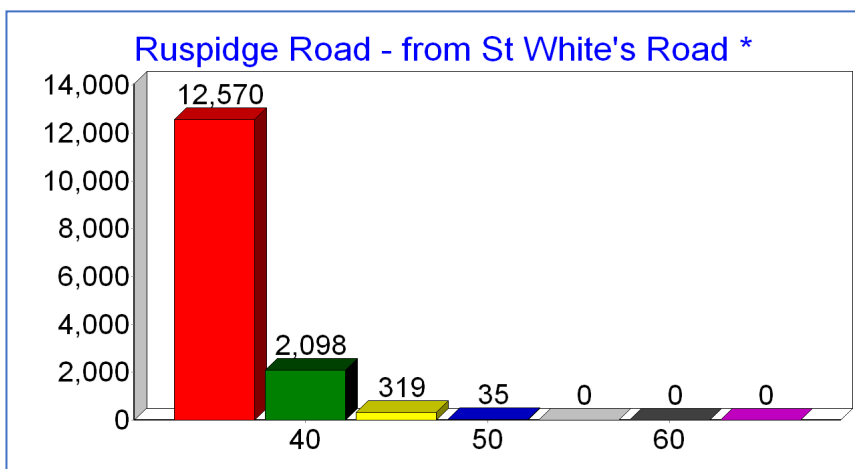


Highest recorded speed this period
80 MPH!

Total below 30 mph:	56862
Total above 30 mph:	23453
Grand Total:	80315
% above 30 mph:	29
Highest Speed	80 mph



Total below 30 mph:	109820
Total above 30 mph:	15022
Grand Total:	124842
% above 30 mph:	12
Highest Speed	50 mph



The Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) were funded by the PCC through a grant to the Parish.

Total below 30 mph:	43071
Total above 30 mph:	25587
Grand Total:	68658
% above 30 mph:	37
Highest Speed	50 mph

* Direction; this is the direction FROM which vehicles are approaching the VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) Signs are located at; Junction of Ruspidge Road and Railway Road, beside Soudley ponds and near No. 7a Buckshaft Road.

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council - Planning Matters

Planning Schedule for the April, 2021 meeting

Planning Reference - Detail & Site Address	Parish Comment
P0539/21/FUL Rock House, Lower Road, Soudley, Cinderford. Application under Section 73 to vary condition 2 of planning permission PI 735/17/FUL to allow for the provision of a first floor balcony upon the side (i.e. west) elevation of the extension serving the master bedroom.	No objections
P2059/20/FUL Forest Lodge St Whites Road Cinderford Erection of 7 dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and works. Construction of a new access.	Concerns expressed

Planning Schedule for the May, 2021 meeting

Planning Reference Site Address & Detail	Parish Comment
P0738/21/FUL 38 Sneyd Wood Road, Cinderford, Glos, GL14 3GD. Erection of a single storey side and rear extension.	No objections
P0780/21/FUL 3 Linegar Wood Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Glos Erection of a two storey side extension.	No objections

Note; if you have internet access, you may want to view the new Planning Applications module, recently added to the Parish Website?
It is easy to use and is more up-to-date than these pages can ever be.



Planning continues:-

Planning Reference - Detail & Site Address	Parish Comment	District Decision
P0166/21/FUL Primrose Cottage, Upper Soudley, Cinderford, Glos Erection of rear single storey extension. Demolition of conservatory.	No Objection	Consent
P2204/20/FUL Former St Whites Primary School, Land At St Whites Road, Cinderford, GL14 3DH. Variation of conditions 02 (approved plans), 03 (approved details), 08 (vehicular access), 09 (improvements to existing vehicular access), 10 (vehicular parking), 13 (vehicular accesses), 17 (roof lights),_ 18 (landscaping) of planning permission P0827/20/FUL.	No Objection	Consent
P0116/21/FUL 15B Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Erection of a two storey rear extension and single storey side extension. Partial conversion of garage to additional living space.	No Objection	Consent
P2139/20/APP 9 Hewlett Way (Land At The Rear) , Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) of outline permission P0164/18/OUT for the erection of one dwelling and associated works.	No Objection	Consent
P1411/20/FUL 62 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Erection of a detached dwelling with associated works.	No Objection	Consent
P0050/21/FUL Valley View, Brains Green, Blakeney, Gloucestershire. Erection of single storey extension to provide dual use of annexe accommodation and holiday let including light touch external remedial works.	No Objection	Consent



Ruspidge News

Ruspidge Memorial Hall 200 Club

No results in this issue - please see below.



Ruspidge Memorial Hall News

Like the late spring hedgerows, our hall is waking up, and gradually our regular clubs and groups are able to be held once more. Some immediately, others need to wait until June/July.....It is so good to be able to fling open the doors and welcome Uncle Tom Cobley and all! (or the Forest Equivalent!)

You will be pleased to know both halls have been kept aired during lockdown and have been cleaned and made Covid safe ready for hiring.

The small hall is a great value at £5.00 an hour. It has a kitchen area for making refreshments, and opens out to a paved and grassed area backing onto the park.

The upper hall with the wooden sprung floor, fully equipped new kitchen, and large windows is a lovely airy space, it has recently been used for the local election and various meetings.

Both halls have enough tables and chairs for any occasion.

To book either hall or for more information please go to www.ruspidgememorialhall.weebly.com

As I write this, the following groups are returning (some actual dates to be confirmed....)

Exercise class ... Every Wednesday starting 26th May 1.45- 2.45 (On now)

This is a continuation of the 2020 course. It is a Strength and Balance course run by Forest of Dean District Council. For more information please ring 01594 812447

Shaolin Kung - Fu.....Every Sunday starting May 23rd (On now!!)

Line Dancing... Wednesday afternoon 3.30 - 4.30 awaiting the all clear in June

Golden Oldies ... Mid July

Gardening club Indoor meetings ... July (See ruspidgegardeningclub.net for details) Outdoor garden visits and plant sales have continued, as allowed following Covid regulations.

Book Club July

Craft Club July, but may split the members into 2 sessions of 6 people in each thereby enabling it to be resumed earlier.

Brownies ... Currently holding meetings outdoors but are returning to the hall in September

Adult education classes - there a some classes being planned for the near future - so watch this space!

Continued.....

Recent Activities in the lower hall

The lower (smaller) hall has been hired for personal yoga sessions. (due to limited floor space at home) Following the first of these sessions, we were delighted to have an email by return saying the following:

Hi Ruspidge hall committee

Just some feedback- it was a delight to use the lower hall yesterday evening to do some yoga practice in advance of hopefully restarting classes! It was a really nice space, especially hearing the birds outside and the sunshine coming through the windows. The room was warm and a lovely nice floor too! Such a good facility that the local community are fortunate to have, and fortunate to have you folks looking after it. Best wishes, Angela

Another lower hall booking are a local duo who are preparing for upcoming gigs and have used the hall for practice as they needed somewhere they could set up their kit and belt it out without the worry of disturbing anyone (neighbours are precious by any ones book!) and no distractions from phones, folk and the need to do household tasks!!! They were very happy with the hall, and have booked more sessions.

We have also held several outdoor plant sales and seed swaps

Amongst other past events we had a very memorable booking of a large gathering of local folk celebrating a family occasion, with picnics on the grass and paving. (With, of course the indoor option should the weather not be kind) The railings and hall were decorated with bunting and flowers... it was a lovely event.



200 club

Thank you to all who have renewed their membership and a warm welcome to new members, your support is much appreciated.

The May draw has been delayed until next month, so watch this space in the July edition for a triple (Rollover?!!) draw!!!

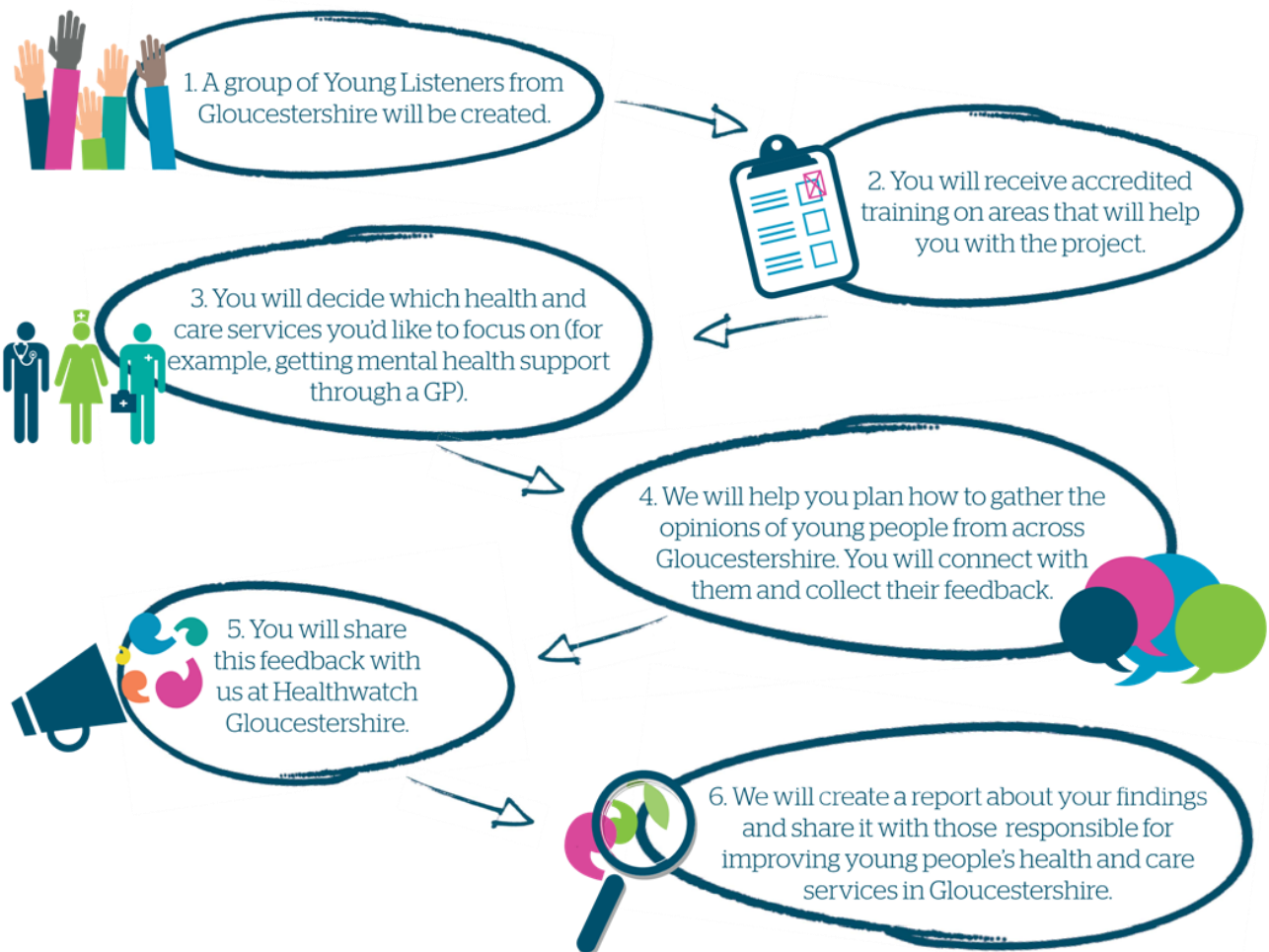
This year your funds will buy more of the comfy folding chairs, thus enabling more seating in the upper hall and some for use in the lower hall. So you see the money is well spent for the benefit of all who use the hall.



Volunteer with us Become a Young Listener

If you are aged **16-24** and want to influence how Gloucestershire's health and care system works for young people, this is the role for you.

What is the Young Listeners



Why get involved?

- Gain a professional reference and experience for your CV.
- Acquire new skills, knowledge, and accredited training.
- Meet other young people in Gloucestershire.
- Influence and improve health and social care services in Gloucestershire.
- Enjoy a rewarding volunteering experience that will benefit your community.

Interested? Get in touch

 0800 6525193 (freephone)

 healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk

 volunteering@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk



COMMUNITY APPEAL



HELP NEEDED TO FIND A NEW PREMISES



GOAT PLAYGROUND: ORCHARD TRUST, LYDBROOK

**A BIGGER
HOME TO
SERVE MORE
OF THE
COMMUNITY**

A VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY GROUP PROVIDING A SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT FOR WELLBEING THROUGH SHARED CREATIVITY

LOOKING FOR: A SUITABLE WORKSPACE FOR CONVERSION OR REFURBISHMENT & SHORT TERM STORAGE SPACE

**FOREST OF DEAN & WYE VALLEY SHED c/o
NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME - MEN AND WOMEN**

01594 780170 - MensShedWhitecroft+@Gmail.Com
Website: ForestMensShed.Com



REGULAR EVENTS

1st Monday	Craft Group	2pm	to	4pm	Ruspidge Lower Hall
2nd Monday	Book Club	7pm	to	8pm	Ruspidge Lower Hall
Every Tuesday	Art Club	10am	to	12noon	Soudley Village Hall
Every Tuesday	Golden Oldies	2:15pm	to	4:15pm	Ruspidge Hall
1st Tuesday	Ladies Group	7pm	to	9pm	Ruspidge Hall
2nd Tuesday	Gardening Club	7:15pm	to	9pm	More info at ruspidgegardeningclub.net
2nd Tuesday	Parish Council Meetings	7pm	to	9pm	Alternate between Ruspidge & Soudley Halls. Check Council website for next venue.
Every Wednesday	Fitness Class	2pm	to	3pm	Ruspidge Hall
Every Wednesday	Line Dancing	3:30pm	to	4:30pm	Ruspidge Hall
1st & 3rd Wednesday	Said Eucharist	10am			St Stephen's, Cinderford
3rd Wednesday	Hall Committee Meeting	7pm	to	8:30pm	Ruspidge Lower Hall
5th Wednesday	Said Eucharist	10am			St John's Cinderford
Every Thursday	Walking for Health	2pm			Blakeney Surgery
Every Thursday*	*Brownies	6pm	to	7:30pm	Ruspidge Hall
Every Sunday	Parish Eucharist	9:30am			St John's Cinderford
Every Sunday	Canine College	10am	to	12noon	Ruspidge Lower Hall
Every Sunday	Under 4s & 5s Football	10am	to	11am	Contact Rich Wilkins Cinderford Town FC
Every Sunday	Fitness Club	10am			Soudley Rec Ground
Every Sunday	Shaolin Kung Fu	6:30pm	to	8:30pm	Ruspidge Hall

Both Hall Committee are abiding by current COVID-19 lockdown rules.

We expect to start a return to normal very soon, but please check with the organisers before coming along. Thing should be clearer next month.



USEFUL CONTACTS

For Ruspidge & Soudley Parishioners



<u>PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE/CLERK</u>	
Joanne (Joe) Rawlings email: info@clerkrspc.co.uk	01594 825343
<u>VILLAGE HALL & GROUP CONTACTS</u>	
For Soudley; Jane Scott	07961405803
For Ruspidge; Jenny East, Bookings Sally Graham, 200 Club	01594 823620 01594 781449
<u>MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT</u>	
Mark Harper harperm@parliament.uk	01594 823482
<u>COUNTY COUNCILLORS</u>	
For Ruspidge and Buckshaft; Graham Morgan graham.morgan@gloucestershire.gov.uk	01594 829349
For Soudley; Richard Boyles richard.boyles@gloucestershire.gov.uk	07979 755101
<u>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</u>	
Bernie O'Neill (Ruspidge)	01594 827586
Richard Boyles (Soudley)	07979 755101
Nicky Packer (Soudley)	01594 827516
<u>PARISH COUNCILLORS</u>	
William Acland (Chair), Tony Matthews, Norman Snell. Helen Medcraft, Chris Richardson and Joanne Smith.	

Other useful Telephone numbers;

BIFFA	01594 825803
Cinderford Town Council	01594 822599
Citizen Advice Bureau	0300 330 9006
CAB Existing Clients	01594 823937
Dog/Street Warden	01594 810000
FOD District Council	01594 810000
Forestry Commission	03000 674800
FVAF	01594 822073
Highways	08000 514514
Health advice (NHS Direct)	111
Police	101
Report/updates on Power Cuts	105
Shire Hall Reception	01452 425000
Street Lighting	08000 514514
Two Rivers Housing	08003 160897 01594 546222

**If you find any text difficult to read, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01594 825343
and note, the new Parish Council email address is info@clerkrspc.co.uk**

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Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of either Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council or the editor and may not reflect their policies. Neither Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council nor the editor takes any responsibility for third party comment or events mentioned.

The next issue of ViewPoint will be 1st July. Last date for receipt of copy will be Wednesday, 26th June.